

## Macomb, Oakland, Livingston and Washtenaw Counties Account for Two-Thirds of Michigan's Population Growth from 2003-2004

Southeast Michigan accounted for seven of the top ten Michigan counties in population growth between 2003 and 2004, as well as having the county with the largest population loss, according to Census Bureau estimates released today. Table 1 shows that Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, Monroe, St. Clair and Genesee counties were among the top 10 counties in numerical increase, while Wayne County led in numerical loss. Filling out the top 10 were the Grand Rapids area counties of Kent, Ottawa and Allegan. Livingston County continued to hold the top spot in percent gain at 2.6 percent. Across the State of Michigan, 56 counties experienced a population increase, while 27 were estimated to have lost population.

Wayne County, in spite of ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> among all counties in numerical loss, maintained its ranking of 11<sup>th</sup> largest county. Oakland County moved up one spot to 30<sup>th</sup> largest (a position it held from 2000-2002), while Macomb maintained its ranking of 59<sup>th</sup>. No other Michigan county ranked in the top 100.

**Table 1. 2003 – 2004 Population Estimates for Michigan and Its Counties**

County Name	2004	2003	2003 - 2004		County Name	2004	2003	2003 - 2004	
			Number	Percent				Number	Percent
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>10,112,620</b>	<b>10,082,364</b>	<b>30,256</b>	<b>0.3</b>	Sanilac County	44,828	44,673	155	0.3
Macomb County	822,660	815,562	7,098	0.9	Ingham County	280,073	279,919	154	0.1
Oakland County	1,213,339	1,208,313	5,026	0.4	Clare County	31,838	31,696	142	0.4
Livingston County	177,538	173,102	4,436	2.6	Hillsdale County	47,470	47,353	117	0.2
Washtenaw County	339,191	335,805	3,386	1.0	Missaukee County	15,286	15,171	115	0.8
Kent County	593,898	590,631	3,267	0.6	Tuscola County	58,646	58,564	82	0.1
Ottawa County	252,351	249,547	2,804	1.1	Schoolcraft County	8,874	8,794	80	0.9
Allegan County	112,477	110,722	1,755	1.6	Ogemaw County	21,919	21,841	78	0.4
Monroe County	152,552	150,894	1,658	1.1	Lake County	11,881	11,817	64	0.5
St. Clair County	170,916	169,557	1,359	0.8	Kalkaska County	17,204	17,154	50	0.3
Genesee County	443,947	442,696	1,251	0.3	Menominee County	25,174	25,131	43	0.2
Muskegon County	174,401	173,286	1,115	0.6	Crawford County	14,870	14,833	37	0.2
Clinton County	68,800	67,818	982	1.4	Dickinson County	27,345	27,310	35	0.1
Lapeer County	92,510	91,645	865	0.9	Iosco County	26,873	26,854	19	0.1
Lenawee County	101,768	101,043	725	0.7	Montmorency County	10,498	10,491	7	0.1
Grand Traverse County	82,752	82,036	716	0.9	Alcona County	11,646	11,647	-1	0.0
Ionia County	64,378	63,717	661	1.0	Delta County	38,380	38,386	-6	0.0
Mecosta County	42,394	41,749	645	1.5	Presque Isle County	14,306	14,314	-8	-0.1
Montcalm County	63,627	62,996	631	1.0	Arenac County	17,321	17,339	-18	-0.1
Eaton County	107,056	106,460	596	0.6	Alger County	9,760	9,779	-19	-0.2
Emmet County	33,277	32,769	508	1.6	Baraga County	8,728	8,756	-28	-0.3
Barry County	59,371	58,903	468	0.8	Branch County	46,444	46,473	-29	-0.1
Jackson County	162,973	162,528	445	0.3	Luce County	6,850	6,882	-32	-0.5
Newaygo County	49,892	49,460	432	0.9	Keweenaw County	2,204	2,238	-34	-1.5
Shiawassee County	73,125	72,702	423	0.6	Chippewa County	38,791	38,830	-39	-0.1
Van Buren County	78,541	78,122	419	0.5	Houghton County	35,568	35,609	-41	-0.1
Oceana County	28,415	28,058	357	1.3	Charlevoix County	26,665	26,708	-43	-0.2
Benzie County	17,466	17,174	292	1.7	Alpena County	30,739	30,791	-52	-0.2
Cass County	51,761	51,479	282	0.5	Bay County	109,480	109,532	-52	0.0
Berrien County	163,125	162,853	272	0.2	Ontonagon County	7,538	7,597	-59	-0.8
Marquette County	64,874	64,620	254	0.4	Roscommon County	26,103	26,179	-76	-0.3
Midland County	84,615	84,377	238	0.3	Cheboygan County	27,289	27,369	-80	-0.3
Antrim County	24,500	24,267	233	1.0	Gratiot County	42,396	42,484	-88	-0.2
Mason County	29,074	28,844	230	0.8	Mackinac County	11,383	11,493	-110	-1.0
Leelanau County	22,163	21,947	216	1.0	Oscoda County	9,348	9,477	-129	-1.4
Isabella County	64,481	64,269	212	0.3	Iron County	12,587	12,739	-152	-1.2
Gladwin County	27,172	26,985	187	0.7	Manistee County	25,090	25,276	-186	-0.7
Wexford County	31,494	31,307	187	0.6	Gogebic County	17,029	17,302	-273	-1.6
St. Joseph County	62,964	62,790	174	0.3	Huron County	34,948	35,234	-286	-0.8
Osceola County	23,842	23,673	169	0.7	Saginaw County	209,062	209,429	-367	-0.2
Calhoun County	139,067	138,900	167	0.1	Kalamazoo County	240,724	241,681	-957	-0.4
Otsego County	24,513	24,357	156	0.6	Wayne County	2,016,202	2,029,256	-13,054	-0.6

No Michigan County made it into the top 100 nationally for percentage population gain, as Flagler County, Florida led the way at 10.1 percent and Shelby County, Alabama completed the top 100 at 3.8 percent. Florida had 14 counties in the top 100, followed by Georgia and Texas with 12 each and Virginia with 10.

## Components of Change

Population change occurs due to the following factors:

- Births
- Deaths
- Internal Migration
- International Migration

The current release allows for the breakout of these components so that we can better understand how each contributes to individual county changes. The following discussion covers the 2003-2004 components of change and then goes into more depth over the entire four year period post-2000 Census.

Table 2 shows how these components contributed to the population growth in the 10 largest growth counties, as well as the loss in Wayne County. It is apparent that all counties, including Wayne, gained from natural increase – births over deaths. Separate analyses of birth and death trends across the State<sup>1</sup> show that natural increase totals have been decreasing since 1990 as births have been on a downward trend while the aging of the population has resulted in increasing numbers of deaths.

**Table 2. Components of Population Change, 2003 – 2004**

Geographic Area	Total Population Change*	Natural Increase			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration	Net Internal Migration
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>30,256</b>	<b>42,424</b>	<b>129,704</b>	<b>87,280</b>	<b>-12,494</b>	<b>23,956</b>	<b>-36,450</b>
Macomb County	7,098	2,507	9,952	7,445	4,561	2,121	2,440
Oakland County	5,026	5,967	15,067	9,100	-978	5,204	-6,182
Livingston County	4,436	1,017	1,927	910	3,421	166	3,255
Washtenaw County	3,386	2,292	4,151	1,859	1,065	2,315	-1,250
Kent County	3,267	5,273	9,070	3,797	-2,011	2,342	-4,353
Ottawa County	2,804	1,764	3,306	1,542	1,010	379	631
Allegan County	1,755	690	1,521	831	1,058	136	922
Monroe County	1,658	438	1,679	1,241	1,212	119	1,093
St. Clair County	1,359	535	2,019	1,484	808	98	710
Genesee County	1,251	2,210	6,288	4,078	-998	237	-1,235
Wayne County	-13,054	9,799	29,782	19,983	-22,842	6,404	-29,246

The migration components, however, are not quite as consistent. While immigration continues to be an important component of population growth in all counties – particularly in Oakland and Wayne and the other core urban counties – internal migration

<sup>1</sup> Kurt Metzger will be releasing a report later in April that analyzes birth and death trends in Michigan from 1980 through 2003 (latest year recently made available).

remains the wild card. The “edge suburban” counties – Livingston, Ottawa, Allegan, Monroe and St. Clair - continue to attract residents from the more heavily built up core counties, while “urban core” counties – Oakland, Kent, Washtenaw, Genesee and, particularly, Wayne – continue to send more residents to other areas that they attract. The one exception to this trend is Macomb County. While Macomb was a net domestic population loser during the 1990s, it has been a consistent net importer since 2000. This growth has been fueled by residents leaving Wayne County, primarily the City of Detroit, and moving into communities on the south end, as well as Oakland County residents relocating to newer housing, with lower taxes, in the growing townships north of M-59.

Table 3 provides us with an analysis of the same components of change over the 4-year period since the 2000 Census. While the order of the counties, based on numerical growth, has changed, the same counties occupy the top 10 spots and Wayne County surpasses all others in population loss. Overall, 61 Michigan counties are estimated to have gained population since 2000, while 22 have lost population. Once again, the components that are most important in driving growth in Michigan counties are the two migration streams. The general trends point to:

- Suburban, edge counties experiencing significant net internal migration and low net international migration.
- Urban, core counties experiencing significant net international migration and net internal out-migration.

It is Macomb County, once again, that is the exception to the rule. Combining strong net international migration with net internal migration second only to Livingston County, Macomb County’s population growth was 68 percent higher than its nearest rival – Livingston. The importance of this internal migration trend is clearly demonstrated when Macomb’s population components are compared with those of Kent and Oakland.

**Table 3. Components of Population Change, 2000 – 2004**

Geographic Area	Total Population Change*	Natural Increase			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net International Migration	Net Internal Migration
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>174,140</b>	<b>190,164</b>	<b>560,624</b>	<b>370,460</b>	<b>-12,692</b>	<b>103,785</b>	<b>-116,477</b>
Macomb County	34,511	11,435	42,648	31,213	22,424	9,247	13,177
Livingston County	20,587	4,402	8,385	3,983	16,290	720	15,570
Kent County	19,563	22,161	39,221	17,060	-2,388	10,228	-12,616
Oakland County	19,183	27,459	65,831	38,372	-7,942	22,593	-30,535
Washtenaw County	16,421	9,967	17,721	7,754	6,586	10,058	-3,472
Ottawa County	14,037	8,498	14,852	6,354	5,636	1,649	3,987
Genesee County	7,799	9,761	26,934	17,173	-1,807	1,029	-2,836
Allegan County	6,812	2,528	6,222	3,694	4,330	588	3,742
St. Clair County	6,681	2,273	8,609	6,336	4,478	414	4,064
Monroe County	6,607	1,972	7,180	5,208	4,709	507	4,202
Wayne County	-44,960	44,462	130,018	85,556	-88,290	27,691	-115,981

Natural increase in these two counties was double that of Macomb (Kent, 22,161; Oakland, 27,459; Macomb, 11,435). In addition, both counties surpassed Macomb in net international migration, with Oakland’s numbers coming in at almost 2 ½ times that of

Macomb. However, it was Macomb's overwhelming lead in net domestic migration (both Kent and Oakland being net losers) that drove it to number one in growth.

Table 4 provides one final look at our 11 counties and ranks their components of change across all counties in the State.

**Table 4. Ranking of Michigan Counties by Components of Change, 2000 - 2004**

County	Total Population Change*	Natural Increase	Net Migration			County	Total Population Change*	Natural Increase	Net Migration		
			Total	Net International Migration	Net Internal Migration				Total	Net International Migration	Net Internal Migration
Alcona County	65	78	44	67	41	Lake County	52	72	32	78	28
Alger County	67	57	63	74	58	Lapeer County	12	19	9	30	9
Allegan County	8	13	7	15	6	Leelanau County	35	51	25	39	23
Alpena County	79	71	70	44	66	Lenawee County	18	24	15	28	19
Antrim County	30	52	17	52	14	Livingston County	2	10	2	12	1
Arenac County	61	56	49	69	48	Luce County	72	69	62	80	57
Baraga County	62	61	53	69	52	Mackinac County	78	66	71	63	67
Barry County	19	31	12	46	10	Macomb County	1	4	1	5	2
Bay County	80	33	75	32	74	Manistee County	51	74	30	57	27
Benzie County	28	49	18	52	15	Marquette County	58	68	41	34	43
Berrien County	41	15	76	8	77	Mason County	40	63	27	61	24
Branch County	43	35	57	24	65	Mecosta County	24	37	19	29	20
Calhoun County	34	21	72	11	72	Menominee County	71	62	64	51	60
Cass County	43	48	38	33	39	Midland County	26	20	54	13	69
Charlevoix County	50	44	43	43	42	Missaukee County	39	50	36	64	33
Cheboygan County	38	55	29	59	25	Monroe County	10	18	5	19	3
Chippewa County	57	43	56	37	59	Montcalm County	20	29	21	38	18
Clare County	49	67	33	74	29	Montmorency County	59	76	39	74	35
Clinton County	15	26	10	42	8	Muskegon County	14	11	26	18	36
Crawford County	48	64	35	64	30	Newaygo County	23	32	21	31	21
Delta County	70	54	67	49	62	Oakland County	4	2	82	2	82
Dickinson County	69	70	55	59	53	Oceana County	27	36	24	25	31
Eaton County	16	17	16	21	22	Ogemaw County	56	77	37	58	34
Emmet County	25	41	13	35	13	Ontonagon County	73	75	60	74	55
Genesee County	7	6	77	10	75	Osceola County	45	39	45	55	44
Gladwin County	32	58	23	67	16	Oscoda County	64	59	58	78	54
Gogebic County	74	82	46	69	45	Otsego County	31	40	28	49	26
Grand Traverse County	11	27	8	27	7	Ottawa County	6	7	4	9	5
Gratiot County	60	46	65	40	63	Presque Isle County	68	73	48	73	47
Hillsdale County	37	34	47	41	46	Roscommon County	46	83	14	64	12
Houghton County	75	60	69	26	70	Saginaw County	81	12	80	14	78
Huron County	82	79	73	45	71	Sanilac County	55	45	50	56	50
Ingham County	42	8	81	6	80	Schoolcraft County	63	65	52	80	49
Ionia County	17	22	20	36	17	Shiawassee County	29	30	42	48	40
Iosco County	76	81	51	62	51	St. Clair County	9	16	6	22	4
Iron County	77	80	61	80	56	St. Joseph County	53	25	74	16	73
Isabella County	33	28	59	17	68	Tuscola County	54	38	68	54	64
Jackson County	13	14	11	20	11	Van Buren County	21	23	31	23	38
Kalamazoo County	22	9	79	7	79	Washtenaw County	5	5	3	4	76
Kalkaska County	47	46	40	72	37	Wayne County	83	1	83	1	83
Kent County	3	3	78	3	81	Wexford County	36	42	34	46	32
Keweenaw County	66	53	66	80	61						

For additional information on all 83 counties in the State, refer to the attached excel spreadsheet which covers both 2003-2004 population trends, as well as the 2000–2004 summary statistics.

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